

The thesis deals with the theoretical and methodological perspectives of comparative cross-national surveys. The importance of these perspectives currently increases, especially because of the creation of extensive continual international programs, as for instance European Social Survey, which realize quantitative researches with broad range of social topics. The Czech Republic began to engage in these international projects after 1989. The first goal of my thesis was to map the contributions which comparative studies bring into the combination of the theory and research in the area of sociology and illustrate the ability of comparative studies to contribute to the constructions of new theories and verifications of already existing theories. The thesis focuses also on the description of specific attributes which separate comparative studies from the standard monocultural studies. The second goal of my thesis was to describe methodological background of comparative survey researches with an emphasis on the concept of equivalence in cross-national research and on the achieving of quality of international surveys. Apart from the general methodological characterization an attention was paid to the specific approaches of the analysis of collected international data. Cluster analysis seems to be the most convenient exploratory statistical instrument in the first stages of empirical analysis.